A PLAIN

# Record or Declaration,

SHEWING

The *Original* ROOT and RACE

OF

# PERSECUTORS;

Together

With the **Nature, Practice** and **End** of that *GENERATION*, in all *Ages* past since the *Beginning*; as we may Read in the Scriptures of Truth, from *Geneſis* to the *Revelation*.

But more Particularly thus:

The **Devil** (who was a *Murderer* and a *Liar* from the *Beginning*, and the *Original* of all *Sin*) is the *Father* of all **Perſecutors** and **Perſecution**, which is the *Birth* born after the *Fleſh*, which the *Egyptian* Woman (the *Bond* Woman) is the *Mother* of, who is caſt out with her Son from being Heir, whoſe *End* is *Deſtruction*.

*CHRIST JESUS*, the *Truth*, the *Peace*, the *Power* of *God* (which *deſtroyes* the *Devil*, the *Original* of all *Sin* and *Unrighteouſneſs*) He is the **Original** and **Everlaſting Father** of all the *Righteous*, which is the *Birth* born after the Spirit: whoſe Mother is *Jeruſalem* from *Above*, which is *Free* with her Children, who are the *Righteous* (which are *Perſecuted*) who will not *perſecute* nor *hate* but *love Enemies*. Now theſe are *Abel*'s Generation, who was a *Righteous* man, whoſe *Sacrifice* was *accepted* of God: him *Cain* ſlew, who was *wicked*.

And ſo all *Haters*, *Murderers*, *Perſecutors* about Religion, Worſhip and Sacrifice, from the *Beginning* even until this day, they are of *Cain's* Generation (the *PERSECUTOR*) whoſe *Sacrifices* God hath no *reſpect* unto, *their hands are full of Blood*; though they *Profeſs* all the *Scriptures* of *Truth*, they are *Perſecutors* of the *Juſt*; and ſo their *Reward* will be according to their *Work*.

H. F.

Gal. 4. *He that is born after the Fleſh, Perſecutes him that is born after the Spirit.*

*London*, Printed for *Robert Wilſon*, in *Martins Le Grand*, 1661.

A Plain

# RECORD or DECLARATION

Shewing

The *Original* ROOT and *RACE*

Of

# PERSECUTORS;

Together

With the Nature, Practice and End of that *GENERATION*, &c.

NEver did any *Prosper* who were *Persecutors* of the *Righteous*; For when the **Devil** went out of the *Truth*, then did he *snare* and *tempt* others out of the *Truth*, and their *Habitation*: And being so, the *State* was *Lost*, which was in the Begining, wherein all things were *Blessed* and *Good*. And the **Devil**, the *Original* of all *Sin*, is the *Father* of **Persecutors** and **Persecution**, who is out of the *Truth* in the whole *World* (which was always *Blind*) that *lyes* in *Wickedness*, from which *Foundation* of the *World* hath the *Lamb been slain*, the *Just* have *Suffered* and been *Persecuted*, by them that have *obeyed* the **Devil**, the *Author* and *Original* of all *Sin*; Who hath *entered* into their *Minds*, and *defiled* their *Minds*, so that they have *disobeyed* the *Good* in them, the *Just* in them; which is the *Cause* of all the **Persecution** in *Christendom*, and all the **Persecution** & **Ignorance** in the whole *World*. And People *disobeying* the *Good* that is in them, and the *Just*; and so *obeying* the *Bad* in them, they are *Aliens in their minds and Strangers to the Life of God, and Covenant of Promise*, and *Strangers* to the *Image* and *Likeness* of *GOD*, the *Image* of the **Devil** being *within* them, and yet *undefaced*, and *unsubdued*. This is the *Cause* of the *Enmity* in the whole *World*, and the *Cause* of the *Enmity* in them that do *profess* the *Scriptures* (both *Jews* and *Christians*) being *Aliens* from the *Life* which they were in,

2 Per. 2. 4.

in, which ſpake them forth, in which there is no *Unity*, and *Subjection* unto God, and to one Another. So the **Devil** was the *Firſt* **Perſecutor**, the *Enemy* of Mankind, who is the *Power* of *Death*, the *Author* of *Sin*, which brings it forth; which *Chriſt* the *Truth*, and *Prince* of *Life Deſtroys*, for he *Ends* all **Perſecution.**

**Cain** the *Second* **Perſecutor**, who *Perſecuted* righteous *Abel*, though he was a Governour and built a City, God ſaid, he was
Gen. 4. a *Vagabond* and *Fugitive*, and his Brother's Blood ſtopped the Earth from *yeelding its full ſtrength*. So that a **Perſecutor** *Corrupteth* the *Earth*, and all that be **Perſecutors** are of **Cain**, *Vagabonds*, to *whom* belongs the *Woe*; though they be never ſo *Great* in the *Earth*, the *Woe* is to *them* if they be **Perſecutors.**

Gen. 6. 2 Pet. 2. 5. **The Old World Perſecuted** *Noah*, righteous *Noah*, with whom was God's *Covenant*, who was a *Preacher of Righteouſneſs*; And God overthrew the *Old World* for their *Filthineſs*, and *Wickedneſs*, and *Ungodlineſs*, who grieved him, (and had *Corrupted the Earth, and filled it with Violence*) who were *Drowned*; and righteous *Noah* in the *Ark* was *ſaved* with *Eight* Perſons: So there was the *End* of thoſe **Perſecutors.**

The **Sodomites** were *ſtruck Blind* by the *Angel* of the *Lord*, who *aſſaulted Lot's* Houſe in *Sodom*, and afterwards the Lord *Conſumed* their City with *fire*.

The **Caldeans** were **Perſecutors** of Faithful *Abraham*, from among whom God brought him; who denied his *Acquaintance*, *Relations*, and *Friends*, and *Nation*, and *Country*, *Worſhip* and *Fathers Houſe*, and went into a *ſtrange Land* to Dwell; And afterwards *Abraham's* Seed were *Strangers* in the Land of *Egypt*, who by the *Egyptians* were *four hundred* years *Afflicted* and *Perſecuted*, but the Lord did *Overthrow* the *Egyptians* in the *Red Sea*, and ſo *Deſtroyed* thoſe **Perſecutors.**

**Iſhmael** the Son of *Hagar*, the *Bond-woman*, did *Mock* and *Perſecute Iſaac*, the Son of *Sarah* the *Free-woman*, who was caſt out of *Abraham's* Family, that he ſhould not *Inherit* with the Righteous, becauſe he was a **Perſecutor.**

Eſau was a **Perſecutor** of *Jacob* who fled from his Face;

and

and he deſpiſed his *Birth-right*, for a *meſſe of Pottage*, and *morſel of Bread*. And **Eſau** the **Perſecutor** becauſe he hated his Brother, therefore the Lord ſaid, *I have hated Eſau, and laid his mountain deſolate* ( and *Jacob have I loved*, who was bleſſed of God ) and there is an End of that **Perſecutor**.

**Nimrod** and **Cain** were two old *Hereticks*, the one *Perſecuted Abel*; and the other was called the *Mighty Hunter before the Lord*, who did begin to build **Babel**, which God confounded; and declared *Cain* to be a *Vagabond*; So a **Perſecutor** is a *Vagabond* and a *Fugitive*.

**Joſeph's Brethren** *Perſecuted* him, and *Sold* him into *Egypt*; and *Pottiphar's* Wife *ſlandered* righteous *Joſeph*, yet nevertheleſſe the Lord made him to *proſper*, and cleared his *Innocency*. *Joſeph's* Brethren were made to *Bow* in the day of their *Poverty* to their Brother, whom they had *Sold* and **Perſecuted**.

**Pharaoh** the King, that Old **Perſecutor**, becauſe he would not let the Children of *Iſrael* go, that they might *Worſhip* God the Lord *Deſtroyed* him.

And the **Egyptians Perſecuted** the Children of *Iſrael*, though to them *Joſeph* had been a *bleſſing*, and they killed their Children, and *Oppreſſed* them by ſore *Labour* and *Taxes*; therefore the Lord *overthrew* thoſe **Perſecutors**, and *drowned* them in the Sea; and *delivered* His *Perſecuted* and *Oppreſſed* People, *by a mighty hand and outſtretched arm*; So that there was an end of thoſe *Oppreſſors* and **Perſecutors**.

And the **Children of Iſrael Perſecuted** *Moſes*, and were ready to *ſtone* him in the Wilderneſs, and *Rebelled* againſt him, and neither *regarded* his word, nor the Lord, wherefore the Lord ſaid, *they ſhould not enter into his reſt*; Whoſe *carcaſſes fell in the Wilderneſs*, and *periſhed* as *Pharaoh* did in the Sea with his *Hoſt*; who regarded not the word of the Lord, nor of *Moſes*, that bid him get him out of his ſight. And ſo there was the end of thoſe **Perſecutors**.

*Sampſon* was *betrayed* by his **Dallilah** and *Perſecuted* by the **Philiſtines**, but the Lord brought an end to his **Perſecutors**. Therefore beware all ye that *Truſt* not in the Living God, leaſt you loſe your Strength, and be *betrayed* by your **Dallilah's**.

**Balaam.**

Numb. 24. **Balaam** was a **Perſecutor**, who *loved the Wages of Unrighteouſneſs*, a **Deceive** and a **Diſſembler**, in whoſe way many go; But mark their ways and his, (that go againſt the *righteous Seed*) the End was deſtruction, who went againſt the *righteous Seed*, and *Life*; and there was the End of that **Perſecutor**.

**Saul Perſecuted David** when the evil Spirit came upon him, and the Spirit of the Lord *departed* from him, and *purſued* him up and down, and *hunted* him like a *Partridge* and a *Fly*, but the Lord overthrew that **Perſecutor**.

**Abſalom Perſecuted** his Father *David*, and ſought after his Life, to get the Kingdom to himſelf; and *Ahithophel* was his Counſellor, whoſe Counſel God *confounded* and *brought to nought*, and the Lord *overthrew* both him and *Abſalom*; and ſo they fell into the *Pit* which they had *digged*, and there was the End of thoſe **Perſecutors**, 2 *Sam.* 17, 18. *Chapters*.

**Shimei** one of *Saul's* Family, was a **Perſecutor**, who curſed King *David*, and flung ſtones at him, and cried out, *Come out thou bloody man*, and *thou man of Belial*, &c. 2 *Sam.* 16. 6, 7. Now though *David* did pardon *Shimei*, that he did not take away his Life; yet mark what came after, *Solomon* his Son cauſed him to be ſlain. See 1 *King.* 2. 46. and there was an End of that **Perſecutor**.

**Joaſh** the King, and his **Counſellors** were Perſecutors, as ye may read (2 *Chron.* 24.) what became of them, and what was their End that perſecuted the Prophets of the Lord, and ſlew *Zechariah* a Prophet of God (whom the King commanded to be ſtoned to death in the Court of the Houſe of the Lord) who in love warned them for their ſouls eternal good; but to reproach they turned it, and made a mock of the Prophets, and ſlighted the Meſſengers of God; and accounted of the Spiritual men as Mad-men, and called the Prophets Fools: But the uprighteſt of them is as ſharp as a Thornhedge, and the beſt of them as a Bryar: Among whom many of the Prophets *trembled*, *ſhook* and *quaked* in Sackcloath and Aſhes, and ſhewed ſeveral Signs; and if they came *Piping*, or if they came with *Repentance* to them, they did not regard: Therefore the Lord left them over to their own hearts luſts, to periſh in their gain-ſayings, as *Corah*, *Dathan* and *Abiram* did,

Mich. 7. 4.

did, whom the Earth opened, and ſwallowed up quick, *Numb.* 1.

Therefore conſider all ye **Perſecutors** upon the Earth, and remember your Examples that be gone before; read the Scriptures of Truth, and ſee in whoſe paths and ſteps ye walk: for they who love Enemies (as Chriſt commanded) and keep brotherly love and fellowſhip, and eſteem well of all men, they can hurt no creature upon the Earth. The Righteous hath alwayes ſuffered (in the whole world) and hath been perſecuted unto death, upon the account that they have been the *Tares*, the *falſe Prophets*, and the *Deceivers*: for which doing Chriſt gave them no Example, nor any Command for all the Perſecution that hath been ſince the dayes of the Apoſtles. Though in the Law they were not to ſpare their neareſt Relations, Wife, Brother or Siſter, that drew them from the Law of God, and went to ſet up another god; if he were a Blaſphemer or a falſe Prophet, they were not to be ſpared, but to be put to death by the Law of God: Which Law of God (Chriſt being put to death) ended; and he ſaith, *Love Enemies*. For the *Jews* ſaid (who **perſecuted Chriſt**) they had a Law, by which, if any man ſaid he was the Son of God, was to dye, and to be put to death: Therefore the People might ſay, as they ſay now, They were but ſubject to the higher Powers. But mark the end of thoſe Blaſphemers that perſecuted the Son of God to death, the Prince of Life.

And mark the end of thoſe **Perſecutors** that perſecute *Chriſt* where he is manifeſted in his Members; that viſited not them in Priſon, and came not to them when they were ſick, and cloathed them, not and fed them not: Such he ſaith muſt go into everlaſting puniſhment; much more them that caſt into Priſon ſhall receive the Reward of **Perſecutors**. *Mat.* 25.

The Children of *Iſrael* were perſecuted by the Heathen, whom the Lord overthrew.

**Haman** perſecuted *Mordecai* and the *Jews*, and would have had them all put to death, and *Mordecai* hanged; becauſe he feared God, and could not bow to proud *Haman*. So the ſame thing that ſhould have been done unto *Mordecai*, befel *Haman*, and ſo there was an end of that *Perſecutor*.

**Ahab** the King persecuted *Micaiah* the Prophet, and commanded that he should be cast into Prison, and fed with *Bread* and *Water*, till he returned from the *Battel* at *Ramoth-Gilead*, because he could not *flatter* him, and *speak well* of him, as the *false Prophets*, the *Prophets* of *Baal* did; So *Ahab* the King was *slain in the Battel*, and did not *return in Peace*, according to *Micaiah's* words. And there was an End of that Persecutor.

1 *King.* 22.

**Jeroboam** the King, his hand *Withered* which he put forth against the Man of God, who cryed against the Altar in *Bethel*, and their Idolatry there. See 1 *King.* 13.

**Rechab** and **Baanah** the Sons of *Rimmon*, did **Persecute** and *Slay Ishbosheth* the Son of *Saul*, (a righteous person) in his own house upon his Bed, and cut off his Head, and brought it to King *David*, and looked for a Reward (for this their Murder) saying to *David*, they had *killed his Enemy*, and *avenged him upon Saul and his seed*. But *David* commanded his youngmen, and they slew them, both *Rechab* and *Baanah*, and cut off their heads; and that was their Reward for their **Persecuting** and **Killing** a Righteous Person.

2 *Sam.* 24

**Job's Friends** persecuted him, and reviled him: and see the end of them, that *Job* was constrained to offer sacrifice for them, and make intercession to God for them. See *Job* 42. And though People reade in the Scriptures daily, yet they do not consider.

*Psa.* 119. 10. The **Jews** persecuted *David* (who was of the Royal Seed) of whom *David* said, *Let their Children become Vagabonds*: And so they were, according to his Prophecy (and are at this day) and their Eyes blinded, and they bow down their backs alwayes. So be all the *Vagabonds* and *Blood-shedders*, whose eyes are blinded & backs bowed down, that be out of the Life and Power, which the *Jews* went out of, and *Cain*; And so do all the *Christians* (so called) and all People upon the Earth, whose eyes are blinded, and they gone from the Life of God in themselves. These let in the **Devil**, the Murderer and Lyar, that went forth of the Truth; and so goes from the Principle of Life and Dominion. These are the Vagabonds and the Persecutors, though they be never so Rich in the Earth,

Earth, Great Kings, Princes, or Emperors, yet have not a habitation in God.

A **Perſecutor**, his eye is blinded, his ear is ſtopped to the Spirit of God in himſelf; ſo wanders from the habitation in God: So a Vagabond, he will corrupt the Earth, and ſtain the Earth, and fill it with Violence. A Fugitive that ſpills the Blood of the Innocent, he cauſeth the Earth not to yeeld her ſtrength. So here is the Author of Poverty and Beggars, by whom the Juſt and Innocent alwayes ſuffer, againſt whom is God's Wo; and that is the end of all *Perſecutors*.

**Jezebel** and **Ahab** were both *Perſecutors* of the Prophets of the Lord, and *Killers* of them; who painted her face, and thought to have been received and eſteemed by her Painting: but mark the end of thoſe **Perſecutors**, whoſe Blood the Dogs licked; in whoſe dayes the Prophets wandered up and down in Sheep-skins and Goat-skins, and were in Caves and Dens of the Earth, and were fed in them. And *Eliſha* the Prophet in theſe dayes was fed by the Ravens. Therefore conſider ye that delight in *Perſecution*, Do not deviſe evil on your Beds, flatter not your ſelves in your own eyes, leſt your Iniquities do become ſo loathſome and ſo hatefull, that you come to no change; for Shame will bring forth Confuſion and a fountain of Lyes. Plot not againſt the Juſt, nor gnaſh not your teeth againſt them: Ceaſe from Anger and Wrath; be patient, and fret not againſt the Innocent, and the Righteous.

Do you not reade of the Great **Perſecution**, in the ſecond *Pſalm*, *The Rage of the Heathen, who imagined vain things. The* **Kings** *of the Earth took Counſel together with the* **Rulers**, *againſt the Lord, and againſt his Anointed.* Will not the Lord vex them in his Wrath and ſore Diſpleaſure, and laugh them to ſcorn becauſe of their folly and madneſs; and ſet his King upon his holy Hill? and ſo fruſtrate the ends all of the *Perſecutors*.

The **Children of Iſrael** when they transgreſſed the Law of God, they perſecuted his Prophet *Jeremiah*, they put him in the Stocks and in the Dungeon; who was **perſecuted** by **Prieſts** and **Princes**; and the Lord ſuffered them to be carried away Captive into *Babylon*, and to put out their King's

Eyes, and to destroy his Sons; who in the day of their Prosperity in their life-time hearkened to their Priests, false Prophets, and Teachers, that smoothed them up, and cryed Peace to them in their Iniquities, and would not regard the Prophets of the Lord, but *persecuted* them; and there was the end of those **Persecutors.**

And the Children of *Israel*, their Princes and Priests **persecuted** *Isaiah* the Prophet, and the Children that were with him, were for Signs and for Wonders to both the Houses of *Israel* before their Captivity: yet they would not regard neither Signs, nor Wonders, nor Prophets, who afterwards were carried away Captive: and there was the end of those **Persecutors.**

**Pashur** the Son of *Immer* the **Priest** (who was also chief Governor of the House of the Lord) did smite *Jeremiah*, and put him in the Stocks; Therefore did the Lord tell him by the Prophet *Jeremiah*, that his name should not be *Pashur*, but the Lord had called him **Magor-missabib**; For the Lord would make him a Terror to himself and all his Friends; and they should fall by the Sword of their Enemies; and that he should be carried captive to *Babylon*, and dye there: and that was the end of that **Persecutor.** And again, when *Jeremiah* had spoken the words, which the Lord had commanded him to speak to the Children of *Israel*, Then the *Priests* and the *Prophets*, and all the People took him, saying, *Thou shalt surely dye*; because he prophesied in the Name of the Lord, and told them of the Destruction of the Temple. See *Jerem.* chap. 26.

In the Children of *Israels* Captivity there had been Persecutors of the **Prophets**: *Ezekiel* told them, their *Shepherds*, *Teachers* and *Prophets* had caused them to erre, and had made havock of the People, and sold them for handfuls of Barley, and pieces of Bread; and eaten the Fat, and cloathed themselves with the Wool: the Lord would redeem them from their mouthes, whom he saith, are like Foxes in the Desart, which worry and devour the Lambs, and they were made a prey upon who departed from Iniquity. So let them see (who regard not the Lord nor his Prophets) the fruits of their Persecution.

Ezek. 12.

Daniel

**Daniel** in the *Captivity* of the Children of *Iſrael*, let them ſee their *Sins* and their *Tranſgreſſions*, who regarded neither the Lord nor his Prophets. And **Daniel** was **Perſecuted** for praying to God, and *caſt into the Lyons Den*. Mark, did not God bring his **Perſecutors** into the *Den* of *Lyons*, *who tore them to pieces*, and *Daniel* was *Delivered*? Dan. 3.

And the *Three Children* were **Perſecuted** for not *Worſhipping Nebuchadnezzar's* golden Image, and were caſt into the fiery *Furnace*, whom God *delivered*, and made their very *Perſecutors* to *confeſſe* that they were the *Servants of the moſt high God*; and thoſe who *caſt them into the fiery Furnace* were *ſlain*; which was a *Teſtimony* againſt their *Cruelty* and **Perſecution**.

**Amos** the *Herdſman*, who was a Prophet of the Lord, was **Perſecuted** at the Kings *Chappel*, who told them the *Songs* of their *Temple* ſhould be turned into *Howling*. And they ſaid that *Amos* had conſpired againſt the King, and bid him get him into the Land of *Judah* and *Propheſie*. And *Amos* told them of *Vyals* and *Inſtruments* of *Muſick*, and of their *drinking Wine in Bowls*, and how they *ſtretched themſelves upon coſtly Beds*, and of the *Seat of Violence*, and how they *ſwallowed up the Needy*, and *cauſed the Poor to fall*, and *that they did not remember the Afflictions of Joſeph*, Amos 6, 7, 8. *Chapters*. But mark what the Lord ſaith of them: *Are ye not as the Children of the Ethiopians unto me* O Iſrael, *ſaith the Lord; and I will ſet mine eyes upon them for evil and not for good*, &c.

**Micah** *Propheſied* in the Captivity, and let them ſee how their *Judges*, their *Princes*, *Heads* and *Rulers* of *Iſrael*, *who hate the Good, and love the Evil: who pluck off their skin from off them, and their fleſh from their bones; who alſo eat the fleſh of my People, and flay their skin from off them, and they break their bones and chop them in pieces, as for the Pot, and as fleſh for the Caldron*. And *Thus ſaith the Lord concerning the Prophets that make the People to erre; who bite with their teeth; and cry peace, and he that putteth not into their mouthes, they even prepare war againſt him*. Therefore the Lord told the *Prieſts* and *Prophets*, *That they ſhould not have a Viſion, and that they ſhould not Divine, and the Sun ſhould go down over the Prophets, and the Day ſhould be dark over them. And their Seers ſhould be aſhamed, and their Di-* Mich. 3.

*viners*

*viners confounded, and Sion for their ſakes ſhouuld be plowed as a field, and Jeruſalem laid on heapes*; And this was their reward from the Lord for their wickedneſs & **Perſecution**, *Who divined for money, and taught for hire, and judged for gifts & rewards*; they had no Anſwer from God; and this was the fruit of their **Perſecution** and **Perſecutors**, **Formality** and **Blindneſs**; Whom the *Prophets* had foretold how they had *ſerved God with their lips, but their hearts were removed far from him*; And how they would *Sacrifice*, and *Offer*, and *cry the Temple of the Lord*, and yet *live* in their **Abominations**: Which *Offerings* and *Sacrifice God had no reſpect to more than* Cain's, *whoſe hands were full of blood*: And told them, *their Oblations, and Sacrifices were no more to him, than to bleſſe an Idol, and he that Offered a Sacrifice as he that cut off a Doggs neck, or ſlew a man*; For they were **Perſecutors**.

**Nahum, Joel, Haggi, Zachary,** Let the Children of *Iſrael*, (the *Jews*) ſee their *Tranſgreſſion*; And ſee how the Judgements of the Lord came upon them for their *Tranſgreſſions* and **Perſecution.**

The **Edomites** who were the Children of Eſau were **Perſecutors** of *Jacob* and his ſeed, as ye may read in the Prophecy of *Obadia*, where the Lord ſaith to *Edom*, *The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwelleſt in the clifts of the Rocks, whoſe habitation is high, that ſaieſt in thy heart, Who ſhall bring me down to the ground? How are the things of Eſau ſearched out? how are his hidden things brought to light? The mighty men of Teman ſhall be diſmayed, to the end that every one of Mount Eſau may be cut off by ſlaughter.* **For thy Violence** *againſt thy brother* **Jacob**, *ſhame ſhall cover thee, and thou ſhalt be cut off for ever.. Shall not I in that day deſtroy the wiſe men out of Edom, and the underſtanding out of mount Eſau? Becauſe thou ſtoodeſt on the other ſide in the day that the Strangers carried away Iſrael Captive, and Forreigners entered into his gates, and caſt Lots upon Jeruſalem: even thou waſt as one of them. But thou ſhouldeſt not have looked on thy Brother in that day when he became a ſtranger, neither ſhouldeſt thou have rejoyced over the Children of Judah, in the day of their deſtruction, nor have ſpoken proudly in the day of their diſtreſſe, nor ſhouldeſt thou have entred into their gates, nor looked on their affli-*

*ction.*

*tion, in the day of their Calamity, nor have laid hands on their Substance in the day of their Calamity, nor shouldest thou have stood in the crosse Way, to cut off those of his that did escape, nor delivered those that did remain. Therefore as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee, thy reward shall return upon thine own head, and thou shalt be as though thou hadst not been.* So there was an End of Edom the Persecutor.

Herod Persecuted *John Baptist* to death, and caused his head to be cut off: He being Voluptuous, and delighted in his Daughters *Dancing*, gave her in stead of the one half of his Kingdom, the *Head* of the *Just John Baptist*. But mark the End of that Persecutor; Was he not eaten to death with Worms?

And marke what became of him that *Persecuted*, and proceeded against *James*, and killed him with a Sword, and Perse- Act. 12.
cuted *Peter*, and Persecuted and Killed the *Innocent Children* at *Bethlehem*, in madness when they could not find the Child *Jesus*, who fled from the Persecuting Tyrant into *Egypt*. And the *Pharisees* told Christ *that he should go from thence, for* Luk. 13.
Herod *would kill him*: Who answered and said, *Go, tell that Fox, Behold I cast out Devils, and will heal still, to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. And he took up a* Lamentation *over* Jerusalem, *and said, Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the Prophets and stonest them that were sent to thee, how often would I have gathered thy Children, as a Hen doth her Chickens, and ye would not? Therefore is your House left unto you desolate*, &c. There was the reward of their Persecution.

The Jewes Persecuted Christ, who came of them according to the flesh, and *mocked*, and *scoffed* at Him, and *despised* Him, and *blasphemed* and said, *He had a devil, and buffeted him, and smote Him with a reed, and spit in His face, and Crowned Him with thorns*, among whom at His *Birth* He had no *place* but in the *Manger*, in the *Stable*. But mark the end of these Persecutors, Priests, Professors and Rulers. Did not the Lord bring the *Heathen* upon them according to Christs Prophecy, and *destroyed* their *Citys* and *Temple*, and *scattered* them over all *Nations*, and many of them were carryed *Captives* into *Egypt*. There is the End of all Persecuting Professors in the Mouth and Lipps without Life and Power.

Paul

Paul was a **Perſecutor**, and a *yeelder* to *Perſecution*, (when *Steven* was *ſtoned*, the *Witneſſes* layd down their *Cloaths* at *Sauls* feet) to whom the Lord ſhewed *Mercy*: which in moſt of his *Epiſtles* he confeſſeth, and his *Unworthineſſe*, that he ſhould *find Mercy*, ſeeing he **Perſecuted**.

Oh ye **Perſecutors**, conſider therefore, and remember what a great Thing it is to *find Mercy*, as *Paul* did, who *Confeſſed* it to his very laſt, as you may Read in his *Epiſtle* to *Timothy*.

The **Jews Perſecuted** *Steven* to death, who was *full of the holy Ghoſt*: But the *Jews* who reſiſted it (as their forefathers did) they *Profeſſed* the Words given forth by the *holy Ghoſt*; but mind their End: Were they not deſtroyed when *Jeruſalem* was compaſſed about with *Armies*, and was *layd on heaps*, and *not one ſtone of the Temple left upon another that ſhould not be thrown down*?

Chriſt ſaid, that His *Diſciples* ſhould be **Perſecuted** *from City to City, and ſcourged, and halled out of the Synagogues, and carried before Rulers, and caſt into Priſon for His Name ſake*; which was fulfilled upon them according to Chriſt's words. And he ſaid, *a day of Vengeance ſhould come*, and told them they had *Perſecuted Zacharias*, and *Killed him between the Temple and the Altar*, and that *the Temple ſhould be thrown down*.

And the true Chriſtians in the Primitive times were no **Perſecutors**, but *Lovers* of *Enemies*, and *tender* of *all* Men; this was their *Doctrine* and *Practice*; which is beyond *Jews*, and *Heathens*, and Hypocritical *Chriſtians*, that are *Apoſtatized* both from the *Life*, *Doctrine*, and *Practice* of Chriſt and the Apoſtles in the *Primitive times*.

And the **Council** *threatned James* and *John*, and *Beat them*,
Act. 5. 40 and *Commanded them* not to ſpeak any more in the Name of *Jeſus*.

*John* gave forth the *Revelations*, and was **Perſecuted**, and **Baniſhed**, and he Propheſied of the *Beaſt*, the *falſe Poophet*, the *Dragon*, and the *falſe Church* ſhould *Perſecute*, *Kill and Deſtroy*, *and drink the Blood of the Saints and Martyrs*, *and make War with the Remnant of the Seed of the woman*; *And then Eſtabliſh the Beaſts Worſhip*, *the Dragons falſe Church*, *wherein all Nations*

*ſhould*

*ſhould drink her Cup, and ſo go on, until their ſins ſhould reach to Heaven, and come into remembrance before God. And that God would in the end plague the Whore, and burn her fleſh with fire; and take the Beaſt and falſe Prophet, the old Dragon, and caſt them alive into the Lake of Fire that burns with Brimſtone: and all that drink of the Whores Cup, and worſhip the Beaſt, ſhall be tormented, and drink the Cup of the Indignation of the Lord God Almighty:* And here is the end of thoſe wicked **Perſecutors.**

**Judas** the **Perſecutor** who betrayed his Maſter, and kiſſed him, and ſold him to the *Prieſts* (for Thirty Pieces of Silver) who thirſted after his Blood, the Blood of the Innocent: But mark his end, with his Company, with their Swords and Staves, He hanged himſelf.

The **Jews** perſecuted *Paul* up and down from place to place, after he came to receive the Mercy; which many now receive his *Words*, but perſecute his *Life:* And after that he came to exerciſe his Conſcience, to keep it void of offence towards God and towards man; then they did account *Paul* an *Heretick*, and a *mover of Sedition*, and *a Peſtilent Fellow*, and one who turned the World *up-ſide down*, and was accounted not fit to live upon the Earth, when many of the *Jews* and Proſelytes that feared God, followed *Paul* and *Barnabas*, who exhorted them to continue in the Grace of God: *But when the reſt of the* Jews *ſaw the People, they were full of envy, and ſpake againſt* Paul, *and railed on them. And they ſtirred up certain devout women, and chief men of the City, and raiſed* **Perſecution** *againſt* Paul *and* Barnabas, *and expelled them out of their Coaſts: But they ſhook off the Duſt of their Feet, as a Witneſs againſt theſe* **Perſecutors.** Forty of the *Jews* bound themſelves with an Oath, and conſpired together with the Prieſts and Council, to kill *Paul*; but were prevented by the Chief Captain. Again, when the *Jews* ſaw *Paul* in the Temple, they moved all the People, and laid hands on him, crying, *Men of Iſrael, help: this is the man that teacheth all men every-where, againſt the People and the Laws, and this Place. Moreover, he hath brought* Grecians *into the Temple, and hath polluted this holy Place. Then all the City was moved, and the People ran together, and they took* Paul, Acts 21, 22. chap.

Paul, *and drew him out of the Temple to kill him, but were prevented by the chief Captain, who rescued him out of their hands; and they cryed against him, Away with such a fellow from the Earth, for it is not meet that he should live.* So *Paul* found more favour from the *Romans*, who were Heathen, than from his own Nation, who were *Jews*, and the greatest Professors then in the World. And **Ananias** the High-Priest, and the Elders, and **Tertullus** the Orator, accused *Paul* unto *Felix* the Governour, and told him, that they had found *Paul* a *pestilent fellow, and a mover of Sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a chief maintainer of the Sect of the Nazarites, and would have polluted the Temple*: and afterwards the High-Priests, and the chief of the *Jews* appeared before *Festus* against *Paul*, and would have had him sent him to *Jerusalem*; and they laid wait by the way to have killed him. But ye may read what was the end of all these bloody **Persecutors**, who drew nigh unto God with their lips, and with their mouthes honoured him, but removed their hearts far off from him. So the lip-servers, will-worshippers will persecute now (as the *Jews* did of old) But they that worship God in Spirit and in Truth (which the Devil is out of) cannot persecute; for they can love Enemies, and bless those that curse them, and pray for them that persecute them, and do good for evil; So these are the true Christians and followers of Christ.

**The Word of the Lord God** to you all. Let no one persecute about Church, Worship, Religion, Maintenance and Ministry, that profess themselves to be Christians: For Christ gives no such Command nor Example, but to love Enemies; for He rebuked his Disciples, who would have had Fire come down from Heaven on them who would not receive them, and were contrary-minded to them (as the Prophet had done:) Therefore Christ, who fulfilled the Law and the Prophets, rebuked their zeal, and told them, *He came not to destroy mens lives, but to save them.*

Therefore ye that are **Persecutors** and **Destroyers** of Mens Lives, ye are not in Christ's Mind, Life nor Doctrine; nor the Spiritual men that wrestle with Spiritual weapons: but you are carnal, of which (as I said before) the Devil was the author,

thor, and the beginner of: And the Lamb and the Saints, and the Bride and his Wife ſhall have the Victory; the *Firſt* and the *Laſt* ſhall reign, wherein *Alpha* and *Omega* ſhall be known (over the *Perſecutors*) the Begining and the End; the Lamb of God's Kingdom; the Firſt and the Laſt. So now in theſe laſt days the Prophets of the Lord have warned the **Turk**, warned the **Pope**, and warned moſt of the Kings in Chriſtendom, of their **Perſecution**; whoſe Field lies like a Field of Blood, who ſtaines the Earth with it, that the Inhabiters of it are Vagabonds, like *Cain* that killed the Righteous; ſo that the Earth doth not yeeld her full ſtrength: Therefore are there ſo many Beggars, deſolate people in Poverty among them.

*Peter* and *Jude* propheſied, and ſaw a perſecuting *Cain* (that would kill about Religion) was getting up among the Chriſtians before their deceaſe, which would be Preachers or Teachers; who were by the Apoſtles judged.

*John* in the *Revelations* ſaw **Jezebel** that would be a Prophet and a Teacher among the Churches, which **Jezebel** was a *Perſecuter* and a drinker of the Blood of the Saints and Prophets; whom *John* rebuked, and ſuch as ſet her up and followed her. Therefore, O conſider! Have not *Perſecutors* been ſet up by a Law ſince the Apoſtles dayes, and the Doctrine of Chriſt trampled under foot, which teacheth to love Enemies, and overcome evil with good?

And have you not read in *Heb.* 11. how they **perſecuted** the Saints, and ſpoiled the Saints goods; and how they wandered in Sheep-skins and Goat-skins, of whom the World was not worthy; who lived in Dens and Caves of the Earth. And again he ſaith, *I ſaw the* **Beaſt** *and the* **Kings of the Earth**, *and their Armies gathered together, to make war againſt Him that ſate upon the white horſe, who was cloathed with a Veſture dipt in blood* (the Lord Jeſus Chriſt) *whoſe Name was called* **The Word of God**; *and againſt his Army* (the Saints that were with Him) *And the* **Beaſt** *was taken, and with him the* **falſe Prophet** *that wrought Miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the Mark of the Beaſt, and them that worſhipped his Image. Theſe both were caſt alive into the Lake of Fire, burning with Brimſtone. And the Remnant were ſlain with the Sword of*

*him that ſat upon the white horſe, which proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls of the aire were filled with their fleſh.* And this was the end of thoſe **Perſecutors**.

The *Miniſters* of *Unrighteouſneſs*, and *falſe Apoſtles*, and *Meſſengers* of *Satan*, and his *Miniſters* were the **Perſecutors** of the *Righteous* like their *Father* the *Devil*, and walked in his ſteps; as ye may Read in the *Corinthians*, but their end was according to their Works.

The **Antichriſts** and **Wolves** which got *the ſheeps Clothing*, who were the *Deceivers*, theſe were the **Perſecutors** and *Worriers* of the *Lambs* of Chriſt; as we may Read, *Matth.* 7.24.

And you may ſee the *Jews* that *Killed* the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and *Perſecuted* the Church: Now theſe **Perſecutors** pleaſed not God, who afterwards overthrew them, 2 *Theſ.* 2.

Act. 9. 4. And it was ſaid unto *Saul*, *Saul why* **Perſecuteſt** *thou me? I am Jeſus whom thou* **Perſecuteſt**, *it is in vain for thee*, &c. When that *Saul* was going with his Packet of Letters (from the high Prieſt and Scribes) to **Perſecute** the Saints.

And *Paul* afterwards confeſſed, that he was a **Perſecutor** of the Church, when *as touching the righteouſneſs of the Law, he was blameleſs*, which *Law* did Command carnal Weapons, *Mark that*: and ſo he *thought he had done God good Service* in *Perſecuting* thoſe that were contrary minded: But yet ſaith he, *through the grace of God I found Mercy, becauſe I did it ignorantly*, Phil. 3.

*David* was often **Perſecuted** of his Enemies without a Cauſe, and he ſaid, *They* **Perſecuted** *the poor and needy.* And he prayed unto the Lord to *deliver* him *from them that* **Perſecuted** him, and to *ſtop the Way* of them that **Perſecuted** him, *Pſal.* 35.

The true Chriſtians (who follow Chriſt) cannot *Revile* them that **Perſecute** them; according to Chriſt's Doctrine, *Matth.* 5. But the **Perſecutors** never follow Chriſt in their **Perſecution**, for His Doctrine is to *pray for them that do* **Perſecute**. And Chriſt told his Diſciples, *That they ſhould be* **Perſecuted** *from City to City.* And thoſe **Perſecutors** are ſuch as *are born after the fleſh*; and are the makers of *Sects*.

And the *Wiſdom of God* ſaith, *Behold I ſend you Prophets and Apoſtles, and ſome of them they ſhall* **Perſecute** *and* **Kill**, *that all*

*the*

*the Blood that have been ſhed from the Foundation of the World may be required of this Generation.* Of that **Perſecuting Birth** Luk. 11. born of the fleſh, that cannot *love Enemies*.

And Chriſt ſaith, *If they* **Perſecute** *me, they will alſo* **Perſecute** *you that keep my Sayings*. And they will not keep your Sayings, that do not keep Chriſt's, (who ſaith, *love Enemies*.) John 14. And therefore are we **Perſecuted**, becauſe we *keep* Chriſt's *Sayings* and *Commands*, who is the **Redeemer** and **Saviour**, who ſaith, *Swear not at all*, &c.

*Steven* told the *Jews* when they did **Perſecute** and **Stone** him to Death, *That they always reſiſted the holy Ghoſt, and that their Fathers had been* **Perſecutors** *of the Prophets*.

And *Paul* after he was Converted, told the *Jews* and *Heathens*, how he had been exceeding *Mad* againſt the Chriſtians, and had **Perſecuted** *that Way*, Chriſt the *Light*; And now he was *ſent to turn People from Darkneſs to Light, and from the Power of Satan unto God*. And how he had **Perſecuted** *the Church of God*, and *thought he did God good ſervice*; And was Act. 22. exceeding *Envious* againſt them, and *Injurious*? A *Fanatick* 26. ſpirit. Yet afterwards he ſaith, that he himſelf *was* **Perſecuted** *but not forſaken, for the Lord was with him*; when he *exerciſed* himſelf *to keep his Conſcience void of offence towards God, and towards man*; Then thoſe **Perſecuted** him, and *were againſt him* and *forſook* him, who before were *for* him; *but the Lord did not forſake him, but was with him*, 1 Cor. 15.

**Now** here is the **Two Births**, *Paul* was **Perſecuted** when he was *Born of the Spirit*, but when he was of the *Fleſh* he was a **Perſecutor**. Now *they that will live godly in Chriſt Jeſus, muſt ſuffer* **Perſecution** by the *ungodly*, who are, and ever were the **Perſecutors**, and *unprofitable Talkers*, 2 Tim. 3.

And the Apoſtle ſaith, he was *in Neceſſities, and in Perſecution, and Affliction, and endured Stripes, Hunger and Nakedneſs*: And again he ſaith, *neither Perſecution, nor Famine, nor Tribulation, nor Diſtreſſe, ſhould ſeparate them from the love of God*: *And for Chriſt's ſake they were killed all the day long, and were accounted as ſheep for the ſlaughter, and through Chriſt they were more than* Conquerors *over all thoſe* **Perſecutors**. So he that is born of the *Spirit* is to ſuffer *Perſecution* by the *Birth* born after the fleſh: and not again to **Perſecute**.

And,

And *Jeremiah* saith, who was **Persecuted** of the *Jews*: All their *Persecutors* overtook them (when God brought the *Heathen* upon them) which were swifter than an *Eagle from Heaven*: And this came upon *Jeremiah's* **Persecutors**, who prayed to the Lord to *Revenge* him of his *Persecutors*, *Jer.* 15.

And the Apostle speaks of some that had been accounted Christians amongst them that were *Doggs*: that after a time *turned* again and *lickt up the Vomit*, (as many do now, and these *Doggs* were *greedy* and *hungry Persecutors*, and *Devourers*, that *lick up their own Vomit*) and will not feed upon the *bread that comes down from heaven, Christ Jesus*. And some that went under the Name of Christians, after that they were *washed* did run into the *mire again*.

**So Consider** this ye who are not Heirs of God and Elect before the World began, see if ye be not of the *Doggs* and *Swine renting*, and *tearing*, and in the *mire*, and *licking up your own Vomit*.

And the *VVoman*, the *true Church*, was **Persecuted**, which *brought forth the Man Child*. See *Rev.* 12.

And the *First-born*, who is born after the *Flesh*, *Persecuted him that was born after the Spirit*, Gal. 4. For he that is born after the *Flesh* is a **Persecutor**; though he may Professe all the Scriptures, Church-Worship, and Ministry, yet he is a **Persecutor**.

**Queen Mary Persecuted** the tender Vines and Budds, and Plants as they sprang up; Whose End and Dayes the Lord shortned: And *woeful* and *miserable* was the end of many of those **Bishops** and **Bloody Tyrants**, which in her dayes were the greatest **Persecutors**. As ye may read in *Foxe's Monuments*.

And also, we warned the **Long-Parliament** of their **Persecution**, who heard not, nor regarded the Prophets of the Lord; who at the last were turned out as unfit for his use.

**We** warned **Oliver Protector**, in whose Dominions there was **Persecution** almost in every place, who would not here and consider as he ought to have done; and so his Days also were shortned.

**We warned other Parliaments** of their **Persecution**, and to stop and limit **Persecutors**.

We

**We warned Richard Cromwel** of **Perſecution** and **Perſecutors**, to ſtop and limit them.

**We warned the Committee of Safety** (ſo called) of the *Plagues* and *Judgements* of God that were coming upon their heads: and of the blood of the *Innocent* in the Nation that lay ſhed, by **Perſecutors**, in *Goals*, *Priſons*, and *Houſes* of *Correction*; And mens *Lives* and *Eſtates* were taken from them by men in **Tyranny** and **Perſecution**; yet great Talking and Profeſſing of God and Chriſt with the Lipps, but out of his Life and Doctrine.

**Laſt of all** we have **warned Charles** the **King** who hath his day, and all his Officers and Magiſtrates under him, by whom many of the *Innocent* are caſt into Goals, lying on ſtraw in Dungeons, ſome whereof are ſick and weak, and ſome dead, and Wives and Children, and neceſſary things denyed them: Therefore conſider theſe things for this is the day now of your Tryal.

All you that do **Perſecute** about *Religion*, *Church*, *Worſhip*, *Miniſtry*, *Sacrifice* and *Offerings*, are no more *Reſpected* of God than *Cain* was, neither hath God any more regatd to your *Services* than He had to his.

*H. F.*

THE END.